REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are still pending in the patent application.

The Obviousness Rejection

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Colonna et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,620) in view of Jambhekar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,715,524). The undersigned also thanks the Examiner for the reasoning provided in paragraph 1 of the Office Action.

The obviousness rejection is respectfully traversed because the proposed combination of Colonna et al. in view of Jambhekar et al. does not teach or suggest an electronic device featuring a housing containing communications electronics that provides a communications signal to a communications system based on two claimed signals, i.e. (1) a force position signal provided by a movable housing element indicative of the position of a contact force thereon by a user in relation to at least one dimension of the movable housing element, and (2) a movable housing element position signal provided by a sensor indicative of the position of the movable housing element, as claimed in claim 1.

In Colonna et al., the first housing element 202 contains communications electronics, while the movable housing element 204 does not. The first housing element 202 provides a communication signal based on a force position signal indicative of the

position of contact on the keypad 206 of the first housing element 202, not the movable housing element 204.

Similarly, in Jambhekar et al., the main body housing element 107 contains the communications electronics, not the movable housing element 109. The main body housing element 107 provides a communication signal based on a force position signal indicative of the position of contact on the keypad 125 of the hinged housing element 109, but this force position signal is not provided from the hinged housing element 109. See Jambhekar et al., column 3, lines 21-41, as well as column 3, line 66 through column 4, line 65. In Jambhekar et al., there is no sensing or signal providing circuitry in the hinged housing element 109. Instead, Jambhekar et al.' touch screen display 119 of the main body housing element 107 senses the physical contact applied on the keypad 125 of the hinged housing element 109. The keypad 125 is a passive non-electrical device.

In both cited references, the movable or hinged housing element (which does not contain communications electronics) does not provide a force position signal provided by a movable housing element indicative of the position of a contact force thereon by a user in relation to at least one dimension of the movable housing element to a housing element that contains communications electronics for providing the communications signal, as claimed herein.

It is respectfully submitted that the reasoning in paragraph

1 of the Office Action does not address this issue.

Dependent Claims 2-3

Claims 2-3 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, contain all the limitations thereof, and are deemed patentable over the proposed combination for all the reasons discussed above.

Independent Claim 4

Claim 4 recites a communications device having a main body communications circuit and a touch sensitive slide, as the movable housing element. The main body communications circuit contains the communications electronics, while the touch sensitive slide does not.

In operation, the main body communications circuit responds to a touch sensitive slide signal, for providing a communications signal to a communications system. The touch sensitive slide responds to a contact force applied by a user, for providing the touch sensitive slide signal indicative of the position of the contact force in relation to at least one dimension of the touch sensitive slide.

The obviousness rejection to independent claim 4 is respectfully traversed because the proposed combination of Colonna et al. and Jambhekar et al. does not suggest a communications device featuring a main body communications

circuit that provides a communications signal to a communications system based on a touch sensitive slide signal indicative of the position of the contact force applied by a user in relation to at least one dimension of the touch sensitive slide, as claimed herein.

For reasons similar to those discussed above, neither Colonna et al. nor Jambhekar et al. suggests providing a signal indicative of the position of the contact force in relation to at least one dimension of the touch sensitive slide, as claimed herein. In view of this, it is respectfully submitted that the proposed combination thereof does not.

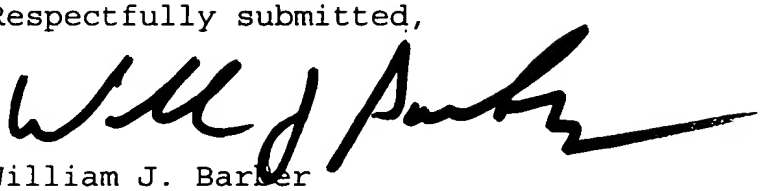
Dependent Claims 5-30

Claims 5-30 depend directly or indirectly from claim 4, contain all the limitations thereof, and are deemed patentable over the proposed combination for all the reasons discussed above.

Conclusion

Reconsideration and early allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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